Amendment to Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A computer executable method for matching patterns in a string of symbols comprising:

identifying a first pattern of symbols to be matched, wherein the first pattern contains a prefix pattern, a value pattern, and a suffix pattern;

identifying candidate matches for the first pattern in the string, wherein each candidate match for the first pattern includes a candidate match for the prefix pattern, a candidate match for the suffix pattern and a candidate match for the value pattern;

determining a cost associated with each of the candidate matches for the first pattern, wherein the cost associated with each of the candidate matches for the first pattern includes a cost associated with the corresponding candidate match for the prefix pattern, a cost associated with the candidate match for the suffix pattern and a cost associated with the candidate match for the value pattern; and

selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein determining a cost associated with each of the candidate matches comprises calculating a corresponding edit distance.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein identifying the first pattern comprises providing a single example string wherein the first pattern is selected from the example string.

Claim 4. (currently amended) The method computer executable of claim 1 further comprising examining the string to identify spans of interest, wherein each of the spans of interest meets a specified filtering criterion.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 4 wherein the specified filtering criterion comprises the inclusion of a keyword.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion comprises selecting one or more candidate matches that have corresponding costs which fall below a selected threshold.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion comprises selecting a predetermined number of candidate matches that have the lowest corresponding costs.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion comprises selecting a candidate match that has a lowest cost and selecting additional candidate matches that have corresponding costs which are within a predetermined tolerance of the lowest cost.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 further comprising adjusting the cost selection criterion and selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet the adjusted cost selection criterion.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein the cost associated with the corresponding candidate match for the prefix pattern, and the cost associated with the candidate match for the suffix pattern are more heavily weighted than the cost associated with the candidate match for the value pattern.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein the cost associated with each of the candidate matches for the first pattern is determined by adding the cost associated with the corresponding candidate match for the prefix pattern, the cost associated

with the candidate match for the suffix pattern and the cost associated with the candidate match for the value pattern.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein identifying each candidate match for the first pattern comprises identifying the candidate match for the prefix pattern, wherein the candidate match for the prefix pattern defines a fist end of a value window, then identifying a corresponding candidate match for the suffix pattern, wherein the candidate match for the suffix pattern defines a corresponding second end of the value window, wherein the candidate match for the value pattern comprises the symbols within the value window.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 further comprising filtering the candidate match for the value pattern using a keyword.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 further comprising filtering the candidate match for the value pattern using a regular expression.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The computer executable method of claim 1 wherein identifying candidate matches for the prefix pattern comprises constructing an edit distance matrix for the prefix pattern and identifying one or more candidate matches for the prefix pattern, constructing an edit distance matrix for the suffix pattern and identifying one or more candidate matches for the suffix pattern, and identifying a candidate match for the value pattern between each pair of candidate prefix matches and candidate suffix matches.

Claim 16. (previously presented) A computer readable medium containing instructions which are configured to implement the method comprising:

identifying a first pattern of symbols to be matched, wherein the first pattern contains a prefix pattern, a value pattern and a suffix pattern;

identifying candidate matches for the first pattern in the string, wherein each candidate match for the first pattern includes a candidate match for the prefix pattern, a candidate match for the suffix pattern and a candidate match for the value pattern;

determining a cost associated with each of the candidate matches for the first pattern, wherein the cost associated with each of the candidate matches for the pattern includes a cost associated with the corresponding candidate match for the prefix pattern, a cost associated with the candidate match for the suffix pattern and a cost associated with the candidate match for the value pattern; and

selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein determining a cost associated with each of the candidate matches comprises calculating a corresponding edit distance.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein identifying the first pattern comprises providing a single example string wherein the first pattern is selected from the example string.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 further comprising examining the string to identify spans of interest, wherein each of the spans of interest meets a specified filtering criterion.

Claim 20. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 15-19, wherein the specified filtering criterion comprises the inclusion of a keyword.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion comprises selecting one or more candidate matches that have corresponding costs which fall below a selected threshold.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion comprises selecting a predetermined number of candidate matches that have the lowest corresponding costs.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein selecting one or more candidate matches for the pattern that meet a cost selection criterion comprises selecting a candidate match that has a lowest cost and selecting additional candidate matches that have corresponding costs which are within a predetermined tolerance of the lowest cost.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 further comprising adjusting the cost selection criterion and selecting one or more candidate matches to the pattern that meet the adjusted cost selection criterion.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the cost associated with the corresponding candidate match for the prefix pattern, and the cost associated with the candidate match for the suffix pattern are more heavily weighted than the cost associated with the candidate match for the value pattern.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the cost associated with each of the candidate matches for the first pattern is determined by adding the cost associated with the corresponding candidate match for the prefix pattern, the cost associated with the candidate match for the suffix pattern and the cost associated with the candidate match for the value pattern.

Claim 27. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein identifying each candidate match for the first pattern comprises identifying the candidate match for the prefix pattern, wherein the candidate match for the prefix pattern defines a first end of a value window, then identifying a corresponding candidate match for the suffix pattern, wherein the candidate match for the suffix pattern defines a corresponding second end of the value

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window, wherein the candidate match for the value pattern comprises the symbols within the value window.

Claim 28. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 further comprising filtering the candidate match for the value pattern using a keyword.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 further comprising filtering the candidate match for the value pattern using a regular expression.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein identifying candidate matches for the prefix pattern comprises constructing an edit distance matrix for the prefix pattern and identifying one or more candidate matches for the prefix pattern, constructing an edit distance matrix for the suffix pattern and identifying one or more candidate matches for the suffix pattern, and identifying a candidate match for the value pattern between each pair of candidate prefix matches and candidate suffix matches.